

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the detailed Office Action dated 7 July 2007. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-33 were pending in the application. Claims 10-12 are currently being amended. After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-33 remain pending in this application.

On page 2 of the Office Action, examination of the pending claims was restricted to the following patentably distinct species:

- I): Figures 1 and 2;
- II): Figures 3 and 4;
- III): Figures 5 and 6;
- IV): Figures 7 and 8; and
- V): Figure 9.

Applicant elects the claims of species IV, with traverse. Claims 1-2, 4-12, 14, 16-18, 20-22, 24, 26, 28, and 31 cover the species shown in Figs. 7-8. Applicant notes that “[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.” MPEP § 803. Applicant respectfully submits that the different groupings of claims would not be unduly burdensome to search because much of the art is likely to overlap between the different species of claims since all of the species are related to riding jackets.

In the event that the Patent Office maintains the election of species requirement, Applicant requests that the unelected dependent claims be rejoined to the application upon allowance of elected independent claims in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.141(a).

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if the Examiner needs anything or if a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2623. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 08-2623.

Respectfully submitted,

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